

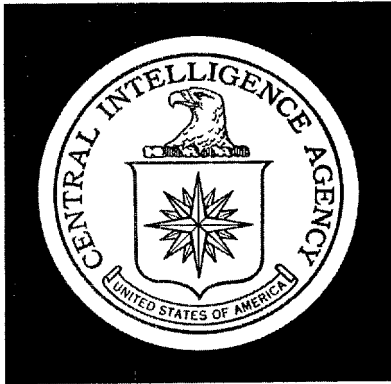
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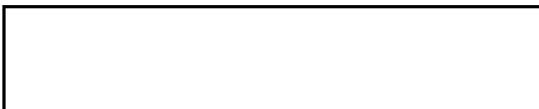
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Top Secret

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29 April 1967



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25X1

29 April 1967

25X1

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1

Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 2)

Greece: King confident of reaching working arrangement with government. (Page 4)

India: Food crisis expected to become more acute. (Page 5)

Nigeria: Exodus of Easterners (Page 6)

25X1

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/04/18 : CIA-RDP79T00975A009800320001-8

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: A number of small labor groups plan to hold a rally and parade in Saigon on 1 May.

Bui Luong, president of the Vietnamese Labor Force for United Action and an opponent of the larger Vietnamese Confederation of Labor (CVT), has stated that he will hold a parade despite the fact that the government has authorized only a meeting. Luong claims that his estimated 50,000 marchers will be orderly and will not attack the US or the GVN either verbally or with banners. However, it is possible that some anti-American manifestations will emerge.

The CVT will almost certainly not participate in Bui Luong's parade but reportedly plans to hold a meeting on the same day at its headquarters in Saigon.

GVN-FULRO Negotiations: Another attempt is under way to arrange a meeting on 1 May between the GVN and Y B'ham, the leader of the tribal autonomy movement, FULRO. Despite initial reservations, II Corps commander General Vinh Loc has apparently agreed to proceed with the meeting.

According to a US Embassy officer, General Loc had earlier recommended to Premier Ky that increased restrictions be placed on FULRO activities in the highlands after an abortive attempt to meet with Y B'ham earlier this month. Failure by Y B'ham to follow through once again could encourage the government to revert to a harsher attitude toward montagnard dissidents.

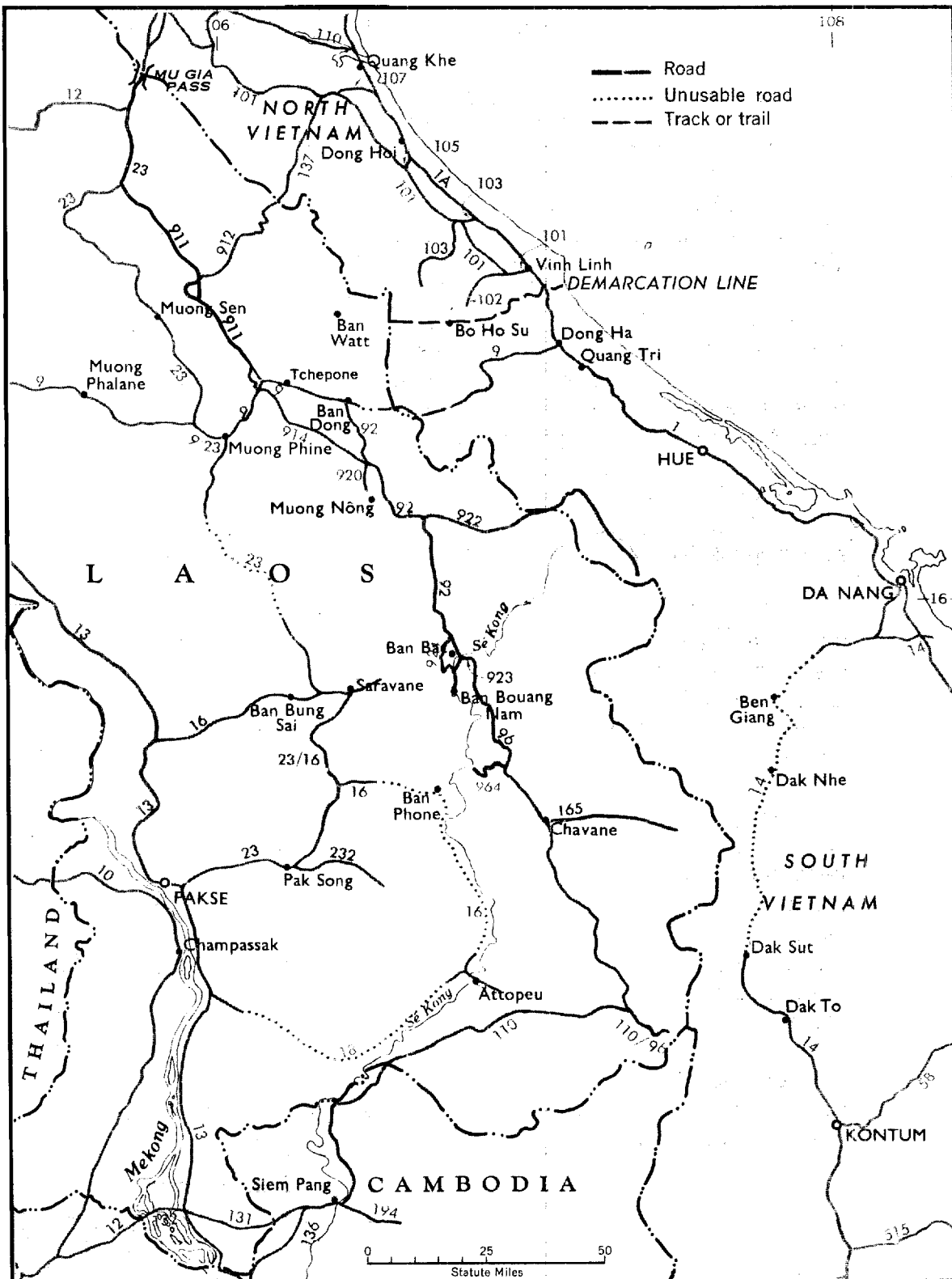
Laotian Truck Traffic: Another spurt of Communist trucking activity has been observed in the northern Laotian panhandle.

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29 Apr 67

2

LAOS PANHANDLE



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On the night of 22-23 April approximately 80 trucks were reported moving south in the area of the Mu Gia Pass. This is the first significant south-bound convoy spotted in the pass this month, and is far in excess of the average of five trucks a day moving southward through the pass during the first three weeks of April.

Such activity may be a Communist effort to rush additional supplies through the infiltration corridor before the heavy spring rains make some of the Lao-tian roads impassable. The rainy season does not normally hit the panhandle until June but there are indications that it may be early this year--standing water and deep mud have been observed along parts of Route 23 and Route 911. (Map)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: No significant contact with Communist forces has been reported in South Vietnam since the heavy enemy artillery, rocket, and mortar attacks in northern I Corps on 27 and 28 April.

29 Apr 67

3

Greece: King Constantine appears increasingly confident he can reach a satisfactory working arrangement with the new government.

His influence may be less than he believes, however. Despite some relaxation of controls over the general public, the new regime is moving swiftly to consolidate its position and shows no sign of moderating its basic aims. The King, now without his former close advisers, Bitsios and Major Arnaoutis, who have been posted to Paris and London respectively, may be vulnerable to manipulation by the junta. He has acceded to a number of proposals of the new leaders for changes in military commands.

Press articles and demonstrations against the government, some of them leftist-inspired, have been reported from several European capitals. Many of these reactions were triggered by a report of a plan to execute Manolis Glezos, a hero of the Communist resistance during World War II and a Lenin Peace Prize winner.

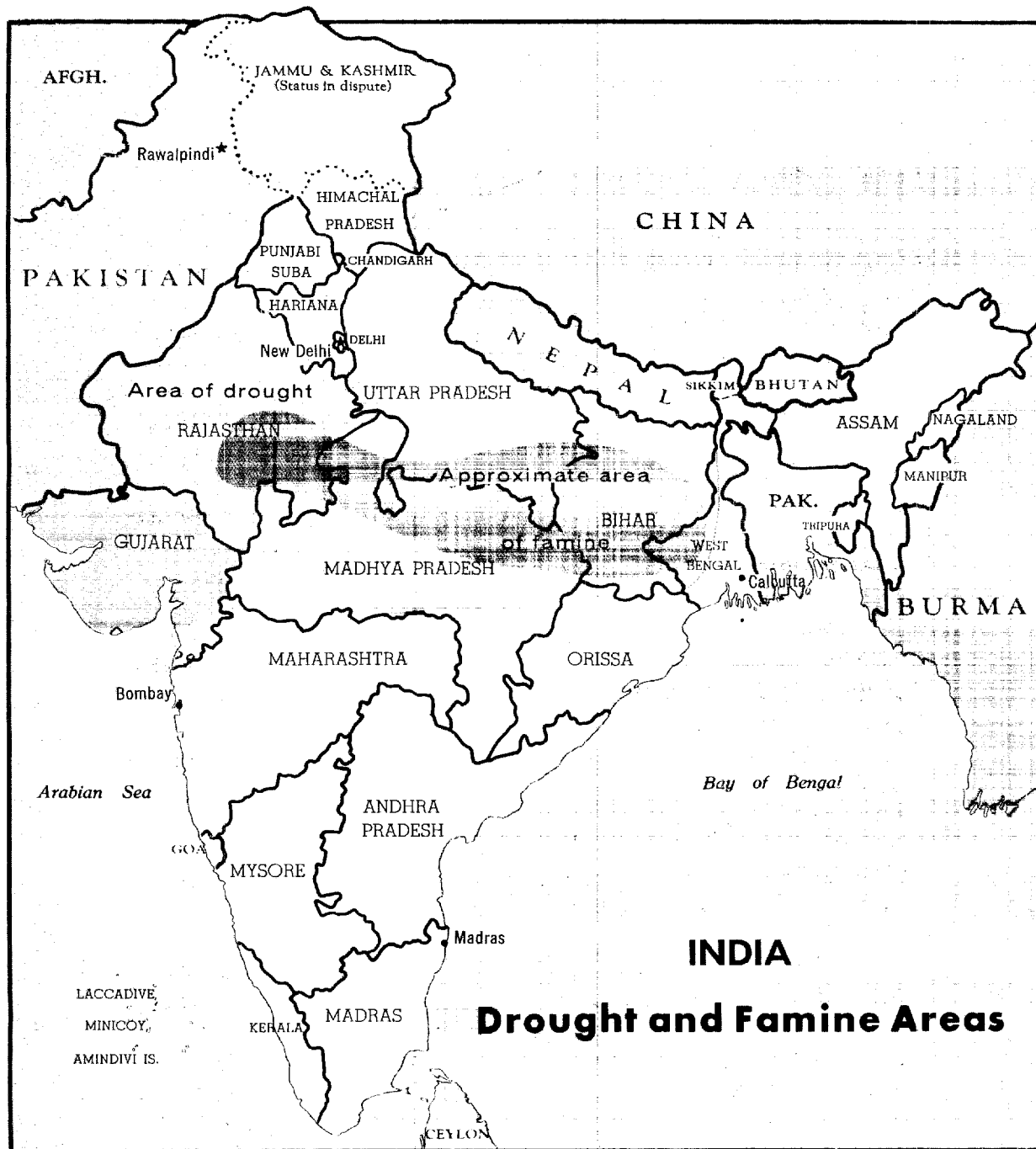
Sensitivity to criticism from abroad was probably behind the new regime's sudden decision to let reporters visit Glezos, both Papandreu, and other political detainees yesterday. *After talking with Minister of Interior Pattakos yesterday, Ambassador Talbot concluded that the government probably intends to try Andreas Papandreu on civil charges for his role in the Aspida conspiracy. However, should he "get disagreeable" he could be court-martialed for his prior declarations that he would cause a revolution.

With few outward signs of military rule remaining, Athens is entering the long Easter weekend in its traditional festive mood. The King plans to participate in the customary holiday ceremonies and will make his annual Easter visit to military units. These visits will be taken as another indication that he is reconciled to the coup.

25X1

29 Apr 67

4



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India: The food crisis is expected to intensify this summer and remain acute until at least the end of the year.

The shortage of foodgrains is not only severe in the declared famine areas of Bihar, but also in eastern Uttar Pradesh, western West Bengal, northwestern Madhya Pradesh, and parts of Rajasthan. The situation will become worse before next fall's harvest, which is expected to be reduced by drought. Furthermore, with the onset of the monsoon this summer, impassable roads will seriously hinder the distribution of foodgrains. These roads are the only transportation link to many of the hardest hit areas. Grain imports from all sources in recent months have been below the monthly port capacity of 950,000 tons.

Economic strains stemming from two successive years of drought are contributing heavily to the political difficulties India is experiencing. Rising prices, high unemployment, and industrial stagnation have been by-products of the severely reduced agricultural production.

The strained relations between the national government and some of the states may worsen, especially if government-subsidized food rations have to be cut further.

25X1


29 Apr 67

5

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25X1

Nigeria: Most Eastern personnel in the federal police and navy, responding to pressure from Eastern Governor Ojukwu, will soon be back in their native region. Federal authorities in Lagos are permitting mass transfers from the capital area, and the Western military governor, apparently acting independently, is organizing the release and return of his police of Eastern origin. The efficiency of both services will be adversely affected by this exodus, which in effect will complete the withdrawal of the Easterners from the national security forces. 

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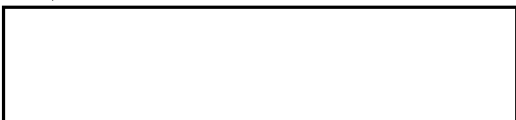
29 Apr 67

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